

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, at line 3, insert the following new paragraph.

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/696,000, filed October 26, 2000.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 1, line 21 and ending at page 2, line 13 as follows.

The paragraph at page 1, lines 17-27 has been amended as follows.

In the optical scanning apparatus such as the laser beam printers, the digital copiers, etc. heretofore, the image information was recorded in such a manner that the light optically modulated according to an image signal and outputted from the light source means was periodically deflected by the deflecting ~~means, for example consisting of~~ means which consisted of, for example, a polygon mirror, and was converged in a spot shape on a surface of a photosensitive recording medium by the scanning optical means with the $f\theta$ characteristics to optically scan the surface.

The paragraph starting at page 2, line 25, and ending at page 3, line 11, has been amended as follows.

~~For compactifying~~ To make the apparatus from the optical deflector 95 to the surface to be scanned 97 ~~herein more compact~~, it is necessary to effect good correction for optical performance of the $f\theta$ lens 96 throughout wide angles of view. For example, Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 7-113950 discloses an example of correction for curvature of field (image positions) in the sub-scanning direction and at wide angles of view by provision of only

one surface wherein curvatures in the sagittal direction vary on an asymmetric basis with respect to the optical axis and wherein magnitude relations of curvatures in the sagittal direction are different ~~between~~ on the upper and lower sides of the optical axis.

The paragraph at page 3, lines 12-27 has been amended as follows.

There was, however, the problem that nonuniformity of lateral magnification (which will also be referred to hereinafter as “sub-scanning magnification”) in the sub-scanning direction appeared prominent at wide angles of view and even if the image positions in the sub-scanning direction were corrected the spot size would vary in proportion to sub-scanning magnifications at respective scanning positions. Further, in the case of the optical scanning apparatus using multiple beams, they suffered from the problem that with deviation of the sub-scanning magnifications from a fixed value, line pitch intervals in the sub-scanning direction varied at every scanning position on the surface to be ~~scanned~~, scanned during the optical scanning of ~~the that surface to be scanned with the plurality of beams~~, so as to result in irregular pitch.